

The Knoxville Independent

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"No men living are more worthy to be trusted than those who toil up from poverty, none less inclined to take or touch aught which they have not honestly earned."—Abraham Lincoln.

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TENNESSEE
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ERATION OF LABOR
John Jeffrey Pittsburg, Ky.LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE FOR
KENTUCKY
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Remember the little union label.

Plans are progressing in Meridian, Miss., to build a labor temple.

Machinists of St. Louis have had hours of labor reduced from fifty-four to forty-eight per week.

The Lithographers' International union is composed of thirty-four local unions, and the total membership is 4,378.

The Railway Postal Clerks' International union has approximately a membership of 3,200, which is an increase of 103 members since last report. The number of local unions affiliated is thirty-two.

Two thousand six hundred and forty-nine local unions are affiliated to the United Mine Workers' International union, the total membership of which is 336,968, an increase of 8,963 members over last report. Canadian membership is 4,426.

LABOR NOT A COMMODITY.

Bill introduced into New York Legislature to That Effect.

Senator Robert F. Wagner recently introduced in the New York senate a bill which provides that the labor of a human being shall not be deemed a commodity or article of commerce.

"Under the business law of this state," he said, "monopolies in manufactures and mercantile wares are prohibited. It has been held in some states that such a provision applies to labor and that therefore labor organizations and combinations of laborers are forbidden, although the sole object of such organizations is to protect the laborer, to increase wages, to lessen the hours of work or to better conditions of employment."

"There is a tendency among some employers to make this claim. Of course it is repugnant to the modern and civilized notion of labor. It classifies labor with bales of cotton, cargoes of coal and herds of cattle. Obviously these latter are not in the same class with labor. They are the objective products of labor, and labor is the subjective effort of a human being."

Would Aid Workers.

August Belmont, speaking before the National Civic federation, went on record as favoring the extension of workmen's compensation laws to all occupations instead of limiting them to those which are considered hazardous. He also asserted that he was in favor of a national conference at which representatives of the various interests involved could discuss the necessity of laws which would compel employers to compensate their employees for occupational diseases.

CLOAK AND SUIT
WORKERS' WAGEMuch Lower Than It Appears
to the Casual Observer

LARGELY A SEASONAL TRADE

Operatives Work Only About Twenty Weeks in the Year—During the Dull Periods There is Practically No Labor Done—Difficulty of Fixing Wage Scales Satisfactory to Both Sides.

The cloak and suit industry, which is worth \$100,000,000 a year, says the New York World, and which was tied up for many weeks by a lockout and strike involving originally 60,000 men and women and at no time less than \$5,000, is a peculiar and seasonal trade, quite out of range of the general information of the public. The wages demanded by the workers, practically all of whom are sewing machine operatives, appear, for this reason, to be much higher than they really are.

A majority of the workers are steadily and intensively employed about five months a year, divided into two busy seasons, one extending from Jan. 1 to March 15 and the other from July 15 to Sept. 30.

During these two ten week periods the piece workers, who comprise nearly 75 per cent of the industry, earn, the manufacturers say, from \$30 to \$70 a week. The average, according to the union, is \$35, not more than 10 per cent receiving over that figure.

As a matter of fact, the earnings of this class is in sharp controversy as to the general average wage, the manufacturers claiming the average wage earned under the scale is higher than admitted by the union. By piece workers are meant finishers, operators and piece tailors.

The other 25 or 30 per cent of the operatives, who work by the week, are paid salaries ranging from \$11 for skirt finishers to \$27.50 for cutters. The salaries between these figures are: Part pressers, \$15.50; skirt basters, \$15; skirt underpressers, \$18; jacket underpressers, \$21; reefer underpressers, \$21; sample tailors, \$23; skirt underpressers, \$23; skirt cutters, \$23.50; reefer underpressers, \$25; jacket underpressers, \$25. As to the wages of the by-the-week workers there is no controversy.

During these intensive seasons in normal years every available hand is employed, the workers being mostly young men. Approximately 10 to 12 per cent of the total number of operatives in the industry are women or girls. About 15 per cent of the operatives are Italians; the balance, 85 per cent of them, are Jews.

At the tail end of each season there are three or four weeks when there is a considerable volume of work, but not enough to keep it from being dull. Between the tail ends and the next busy season the shops have almost no work at all, owing to the fact that the designers are working up styles and only samples are required.

Thus the wages earned in twenty to thirty weeks have to be spread over fifty-two weeks in estimating the yearly average earnings. There is so little work in the dull seasons that an operative may hang around the shop, according to the union, and not pick up more than 50 cents or a dollar when some little hurry up order drifts in.

There are several hundred different scales of wages in the cloak industry, for the reason that there are several thousand different styles of cloaks and suits, all mostly piece work. It takes an expert calculator to figure out, in each big shop, just how much is to be paid the sewers for making this, that or the other cloak or suit, that or the other part of a cloak or suit. The basic wage price is based on the amount of work an operative can do in a day, and the hundreds of different wage prices are based on the number of particular pieces or parts of the garment that can be sewed in a day.

The great strike preceding the recent one drove some of the biggest manufacturers out of business and resulted in establishing all over the Jewish districts, but particularly in Brownsville and Williamsburg, small shops employing from three to twenty-five sewing machine operators. They cut into the trade of the big manufacturers, and one of the objects of the recent lockout and strike, so far as the members of the Manufacturers' Protective association is concerned, was to drive these outsiders out of the trade and restore the \$100,000,000 a year industry to its former centralized condition.

Caplan Found Guilty.

David Caplan was found guilty of manslaughter at his second trial for complicity in the Los Angeles Times explosion, Oct. 1, 1910, when twenty men were killed. The penalty for manslaughter is from one to ten years. Caplan was the fourth man brought to trial in the case. Twenty indictments charging murder were returned against eight persons, but the names of only the four arrested were made known. James B. McNamara was sentenced to life imprisonment, and John J. McNamara received a sentence of fifteen years. Mathew A. Schmidt was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment in December, 1915. His appeal is pending.

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TENNESSEE

Epitome of Interesting Events That Are Transpiring Over the State

Jackson.—J. B. Lane, M. & O. fireman, was painfully hurt at Tupelo, Miss., when he fell on the back of a tank.

Murfreesboro.—E. G. Tompkins, who was killed in the Nashville courthouse affray, was born and reared in this county.

Humboldt.—A national farm loan association was organized in Humboldt with applications for loans of nearly \$40,000, by 15 members.

Waverly.—Efforts to save something from the ruins of her home, which was being consumed by fire, cost the life of Mrs. Urish Williams, an aged resident of Hurricane Creek.

Watertown.—The merchants and business men here are considering an ice and cold storage plant, and the proposition will take form this week.

Pulaski.—The "bone dry" liquor law went into effect here with only one five-gallon package of booze left on hand in the express office. It was returned to the consignor.

Liberty.—Judge J. R. Moore, county judge of this county, has been appointed postmaster of Smithville, and he has tendered his resignation to Governor Rye as county judge.

Covington.—The First Presbyterian church of this city elected Grant Reid, James J. Miller, W. F. Bringle and Rev. R. P. Walker, pastor of the church, as delegates from the First Presbyterian church to the laymen's convention of the Southern Presbyterian church, which meets in New Orleans, March 13-15.

Covington.—The preliminary trial of James Scott, who on Jan. 11, last, shot Elmer Lewis in Hastings' pool room, on the north side of the square, took place before Squires J. Lauderdale Richardson and C. W. Beasley. Scott waived examination and was bound over to the circuit court on \$1,500 bond, which he executed immediately.

Elizabethtown.—The passing of Rev. George W. Edens at Knoxville, aged 67, great surprise in this section, where Rev. Edens was well known and has a number of relatives. Rev. Edens is a lineal descendant of Rev. James Edens, one of the first Baptist preachers who came to Carter county. It has been stated that Rev. James Edens brought the first Bible to this county. He lived near the Big Spring on Gay creek.

Humboldt.—A number of prospective borrowers of this section met at the office of the Humboldt business men's club and organized the Humboldt national farm loan association, with the following officers: G. W. Clement, president; H. S. Stallings, vice-president; A. R. Dodson, secretary-treasurer; loan committee, W. A. Thompson, M. F. Hamilton, M. T. Moore.

Memphis.—J. N. Pite, Jackson, was elected president and W. K. Hall, Fulton, Ky., vice-president of the Southern retail lumber dealers' association at the seventh annual convention of the organization. V. R. Smith, Memphis, was re-elected secretary. The association will meet in Memphis again next year.

Johnson City.—An appointment of prominence is that of Miss Sarah Hunter of Johnson City as maid of honor to the Confederate reunion to be held in Washington, D. C.

Waynesboro.—The jury of inquest which inquired into the killing of J. G. Stricklin, on a prominent street of this place, returned a verdict to the effect that Stricklin came to his death at the hands of unknown parties.

PLOTTERS ARE NOW WATCHED

New and Sensational Developments Are Promised in Probe of "East Indian Plot."

New York, March 8.—New and sensational developments were promised by Capt. William Coffey, head of the federal bureau of investigation, in his probe of the German "East Indian plot."

Many arrests will follow the capture of Ernst Mathias Sakuma, a German, and Dr. Chandras Chakrabarty, a Bengalee, he intimated. The government is said to have every important plotter under surveillance.

TURKS FALL BACK IN EGYPT

Abandon Strong Position in Neighborhood of Sheikh Nuran, Is London Report.

London, March 8.—An official report from Egypt says the Turks have abandoned a strong position in the neighborhood of Sheikh Nuran, west of Shellal.

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Query and
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Department

Do the enlisted men on the border get more pay than the United States army men who are not there?

Enlisted men on duty on the border within the limits of the United States do not receive any pay in excess of those who are serving elsewhere, but those serving in Mexico, a foreign country, receive a 20 per cent increase in pay.

Please state how frequently in the past England has been invaded.

Since the time of William the Conqueror (1066) no less than sixty invasions have taken place, some of which have resulted in a change of dynasty.

Thirteen of the hostile invasions of Great Britain took place on the Scottish coast, the first being that of the French in 1559, when they supported Mary Stuart in her contest with the allied Scotch Presbyterians.

The Dutch landed upon British soil four times in the second half of the seventeenth century. Terror spread over England when Admiral de Ruyter appeared in the Thames with his fleet and went as far as Gravesend and Chatham and burned the ships lying there (June 13, 1667). The people feared that De Ruyter would come as far as London, but the Dutch fleet sailed against Portsmouth and then against Plymouth and Harwich, permitting the inhabitants of London to recover from their fright.

The United States has attacked England only through Paul Jones, whose forces invaded British soil four times. In 1778 he set the coasts of the Irish sea in alarm when he landed at Whitehaven and burned ships there.

In the spring of 1139 a German army landed and defeated Stephen in the battle of Lincoln. Germans made their way to England again in support of St. Melmel, the pretender to the British throne, in 1486 and 1487, but there were only about 2,000 German soldiers, and they were helpless before the hosts of Henry VII. at the battle of Stoke.

Please tell me the exact population of London and New York. Which is the largest city in the world, and did New York ever exceed London in population?

The population of all boroughs of New York in 1914 was 5,333,537. The population of registered London in 1911 was 4,522,964, and with metropolitan and city police districts, 7,252,963. London has always contained a larger population than New York. Fourth: Berlin, fifth: Tokyo, sixth: Vienna, seventh: Petrograd, eighth: Philadelphia, ninth and Moscow, tenth.

Is it true that Germany, of all the countries engaged in war, is the only one that has kept the peace for a period of forty years?

Serbia has fought the two Balkan wars; Russia, the Russo-Japanese war; Great Britain, the Boer war, etc.; Italy, the war with Turkey; Turkey, the Turk-Russian war, etc.; France, the Tonkin campaign, etc. During this period neither Germany nor Austria has had any war at all unless the participation of both in the march to Peking at the time of the Boxer troubles and Germany's wars in Africa are counted.

Was there any regular army in Washington's day? If not, when does it date from?

There was no regular army as we now use the phrase till long after Washington's day. Washington had no military education. His first military office was as lieutenant colonel of colonial militia, and his first duty was in an expedition against the French in the vicinity of Pittsburgh. As a practical surveyor and accomplished woodsman he had a good start as a military leader, but his military skill all came from intuition and practical experience. The Revolutionary war left a considerable body of trained soldiers, belonging to the militia of the different colonies, many of whom took part in the Indian and border wars that followed, but they were not regulars. The regular army by that name was established by congress at its first session in 1789, but the military academy at West Point was not established till 1802. There were some able officers in the army before the establishment of the West Point academy, but, strictly speaking, the regular army of today dates from that event.

What is a naval apprentice?

The law provides that boys between the ages of seventeen and eighteen years may, with the consent of their parents or guardians, be enlisted as apprentices to serve in the navy of the United States until they shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years. Only such boys should seek enlistment as can reasonably be expected to remain in the service. Once enlisted they must fulfill their terms of apprenticeship and cannot be discharged except for physical disability, for inaptitude or for misconduct.

How are the United States battleships, gunboats, all boats of the navy, named?

Battleships are named after states. Armored cruisers were formerly named after states, but now are gradually being changed from the names of states to the names of cities. For example, the California has become the San Diego. The newer ones have been given the names of cities to begin with. Protected cruisers and scout cruisers also are named after cities. Destroyers and torpedo boats are named after distinguished naval officers.

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Every man who is out of work in America would have employment if the people of the United States confined their purchases for the next few months to goods made here.

When you buy ask where the articles are made. Reject foreign goods.

Commodities made by American labor ought to be good enough for American citizens.

What is the form of punishment for murder in the different states?

Seven states have life imprisonment only—viz., Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Washington and Wisconsin. Nevada and Utah have hanging or shooting at the option of the murderer. Twelve states have electrocution—viz., Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia, the rest having hanging.

Can you inform me what is the longest word in the English language? If not, could you please tell me a word of twenty-one or more letters?

The longest word in the language is a meaningless word which Shakespeare puts in the mouth of one of his characters. In "Love's Labor's Lost" Costard the clown says, "I marvel that thy master hath not eaten thee for a word, for thou art not so long by the head as honorificabilitudinitatibus," twenty-seven letters strung together without meaning. There are many words in the language of sixteen to nineteen letters and a few of twenty, as incomprehensibleness and incontinence.

Some writer stated that Grant so bitterly opposed the terms of surrender that Sherman was willing to accept from General Joe Johnston that Sherman never spoke to Grant after that. Please state whether that is reliable history.

There is no confirmation of such a statement either in contemporaneous or later history. When General Sherman sent the terms of Johnston's surrender to Washington they were disapproved by President Andrew Johnson, and General Grant was immediately sent to Sherman's headquarters in North Carolina to conduct the proceedings of surrender. This order was carried out, and new terms of surrender were arranged, practically the same that Grant had given Lee. There was no evidence of friction between Grant and Sherman then or afterward, and Sherman knew that the disapproval of the terms of surrender which he had granted came from President Johnson and cabinet and not primarily from General Grant. There was no rupture between Grant and Sherman.

What is our present national debt and how much of it is held by England and how much by other foreign countries?

As of Oct. 1, 1915, our debt was as follows:

Interest bearing debt	\$970,624,690.00
Debt on which interest has ceased	1,506,140.26
Debt bearing no interest	376,680,127.90
Certificates and treasury notes	1,879,923,760.00
Gross debt	\$3,225,734,627.16
Cash in treasury	2,063,901,838.87
Net debt	\$1,121,832,788.29

Practically none of the interest bearing debt, which is the real debt, is held in England or any other foreign country.

Fewer Hours, Bigger Output.

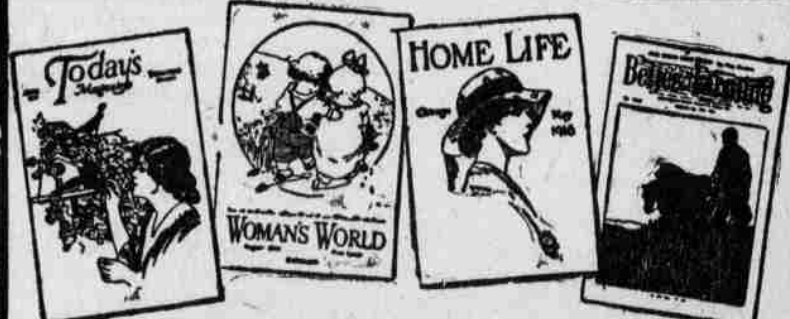
The economic argument that industry can thrive only with a long day and that any curtailment of it would be destructive can be met very effectively by the fact that shortening the working period even to eight hours almost invariably increases the quantity and improves the quality of output. Dr. Frederick S. Lee, Professor of Physiology, Columbia University.

Did the public lands of the United States ever sell for less than \$125 an acre?

Yes. In July, 1787, after the Revolutionary war, but before the constitution was adopted, the price of public land was 66 2/3 cents an acre, and large tracts in what was called the northwest territory—that is, northwest of the Ohio river—were sold at that price.

What is the average height of waves at sea?

An authority says the height of the waves in a storm rarely exceeds twelve feet, and in very bad disturbances on the high sea they may reach a height of fifty feet. Their length is never over 600 feet. In the southern parts of the Pacific waves forty-three feet in height have been measured, in the southern parts of the Atlantic thirty-nine feet and in the Mediterranean twelve feet. At places where the waves strike at an object, such as a lighthouse, they rise, of course, much higher—from 100 to 200 feet. On the open sea, however, they never rise over fifty feet.

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